



Feds Expose Enablers of Diddy's Alleged Sex Crimes

Description

Sean "Diddy" Combs stood as the sole defendant indicted this week in a far-reaching investigation into sex trafficking and racketeering.

Despite this, federal prosecutors were adamant that they did not view him as the sole perpetrator.

For the record:

9:48 a.m. Sept. 19, 2024A previous version of this story erroneously spelled the name of Mary Graw Leary, a law professor at Columbus School of Law.

The 14-page indictment against Combs accuses him, the founder of Bad Boy Entertainment, of enticing female victims and employing violence, coercion, and drugs to engage women in elaborate sex performances known as "freak offs," often recorded and lasting days.

The case exposes an intricate network, a sophisticated scheme that would have necessitated multiple individuals not only to be aware but to actively participate in recruiting victims, orchestrating the freak offs, covering their tracks, and avoiding law enforcement intervention.

"Combs did not operate in isolation," remarked Damian Williams, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, when announcing the charges. "He leveraged his business, its employees, and close associates to further his agenda."

Williams declined to speculate on the possibility of more indictments but affirmed that the investigation was "active and ongoing."

"I'm keeping all options open," he stated. "Anything is conceivable."

Combs has professed his innocence to all charges, including the federal racketeering accusation — a charge commonly associated with organized crime figures such as John Gotti and James "Whitey" Bulger.

Authorities underscored that Combs' influence and resources shielded him from exposure for years, yet legal experts suggest that the indictment may usher in a new era.

Matt Murphy, a former prosecutor well-versed in sex crimes, posited that the veil of secrecy might be lifting.

The racketeering charge implies that any individual complicit in the enterprise could face criminal consequences, elucidated Murphy, noting that witnesses privy to information may now have their own legal interests to consider.

This development may compel associates to testify against Combs, he added.



“While details remain undisclosed, it is likely that members of his organization facing criminal liability will transition into federal informants,” Murphy speculated.

According to court documentation, prosecutors claim to have acquired information from “dozens of victims and witnesses,” alongside correspondence with sex workers, travel records, and recordings, including “dozens of video recordings filmed by [Combs] during Freak Offs with victims.”

“While the indictment solely names Combs, descriptions implicate numerous other participants,” stated Laurie Levenson, a criminal law professor at Loyola Law School and former federal prosecutor. “This begs the question: ‘Will these participants be offered agreements by prosecutors, or will some of them find themselves facing charges alongside the defendant?’”

Federal prosecutors assert that Combs harnessed his billion-dollar music and business empire to orchestrate the alleged crimes. The indictment outlines the involvement of security personnel, household staff, personal aides, and other associates, who collaborated to conceal criminal activities through violence, intimidation, manipulation, bribery, and threats.

For instance, personnel and associates were tasked with enticing female victims to participate in alleged freak offs, often under the guise of romantic relationships.

Others were assigned duties such as arranging hotel accommodations and stocking them with supplies deemed essential for freak offs, including drugs, baby oil, lubricant, lighting, and additional linens.

Employees and associates of Combs were also responsible for coordinating victims’ travel, engaging sex workers, providing large sums of cash to pay sex workers at Combs’ behest, and replenishing supplies as required.

In subsequent days, as per the complaint, staff provided Combs and others with intravenous fluids for recuperation, while some were tasked with room cleanup to mitigate damage.

Combs and his associates allegedly utilized drugs, financial leverage, videos from the freak offs, and their sway in the entertainment industry to coerce victims into continued participation and deter them from disclosing details publicly, as outlined in the indictment.

“Victims perceived their compliance with [Combs’] demands as necessary to safeguard their financial stability and employment security, or to avoid potential physical or emotional repercussions,” the indictment delineates.

Assistants from Combs’ businesses, the indictment specifies, aided in concealing evidence and monitored victims to ensure they remained within hotel premises or at Combs’ residences.

The indictment also references a 2016 video, uncovered by CNN in May, depicting Combs kicking and dragging his then-girlfriend Cassie, also known as Casandra Ventura.

Upon intervention by a hotel security member, Combs purportedly sought to bribe them, according to the indictment.

Prosecutors further alleged that upon learning of a potential inquiry, Combs and his associates reached out



to women, pressuring them to provide falsified accounts of events, bribing or threatening them in some instances.

In one scenario, prosecutors detailed how Combs contacted a victim seeking her “friendship” before convincing her that she willfully participated in the alleged acts.

Mary Graw Leary, a professor at Columbus School of Law in Washington, D.C., and former director of the National Center for the Prosecution of Child Abuse, drew parallels between Combs’ indictment and the sexual misconduct accusations leveled against celebrities like Bill Cosby, Harvey Weinstein, and R. Kelly.

In many such cases, there existed numerous individuals privy to certain occurrences, yet it took years for allegations to surface.

“The prevalence of knowledgeable individuals facilitating the sexual exploitation of vulnerable women goes largely unreported, and this is concerning,” Graw Leary remarked.

Wealth serves as a tool to shroud alleged illegal activities, but Graw Leary underscored the role of influence, power, and the individual’s public image.

She cited the 2002 child pornography charges initially filed against Kelly and the significant opposition prosecutors encountered at the time.

Though Kelly was acquitted in 2008, it wasn’t until subsequent years, following revelations in articles authored by journalist Jim Derogatis, that fresh investigations were initiated, culminating in Kelly’s 2022 conviction on multiple charges, including sex trafficking and racketeering.

“The use of power forms part of the grooming process, which prevents such information from reaching the wider public or fosters resistance toward accepting it,” she expounded.

Combs’ legal team pledged to contest the charges.

“He will fight this vigorously. He maintains his innocence,” remarked Combs’ lawyer Marc Agnifilo outside the court premises. “He came to New York to prove his innocence. These charges haven’t altered anyone’s opinion.”

Combs was remanded without bail. His attorneys have contested the ruling, submitting a letter to the judge outlining various steps taken by the music icon to demonstrate that he is not a flight risk, including voluntarily surrendering in New York and relinquishing his passport to his legal representatives.

A judge upheld on Wednesday the decision to detain Combs until the trial.

Vocabulary List:

1. **Indicted** /ɪn'daɪ.tɪd/ (verb): Formally charged with a serious crime.
2. **Racketeering** /ˌræk.ɪ'tɪr.ɪŋ/ (noun): Engaging in dishonest and fraudulent business dealings.
3. **Coercion** /kəʊ'sɜː.jən/ (noun): The practice of persuading someone to do something by using force or threats.



4. **Elucidated** /ɪˈluː.sɪ.deɪ.tɪd/ (verb): Made something clear; explained.
5. **Exposed** /ɪkˈspəʊzd/ (verb): Made something visible or revealed.
6. **Complicit** /kəmˈplɪs.ɪt/ (adjective): Involved with others in an illegal activity or wrongdoing.

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. Who is the sole defendant indicted in the investigation into sex trafficking and racketeering?
Option: Sean “Diddy” Combs
Option: Damian Williams
Option: Matt Murphy
Option: Laurie Levenson
2. What criminal charge is Combs facing?
Option: Racketeering
Option: Tax Evasion
Option: Identity Theft
Option: Bribery
3. What did witnesses privy to information in the case need to consider according to Murphy?
Option: Their own legal interests
Option: Financial gain
Option: Publicity
Option: Friendship with Combs
4. What did Laurie Levenson speculate about the other participants implicated in the case?
Option: Facing charges alongside the defendant
Option: Becoming defense witnesses
Option: Escaping prosecution
Option: Not involved in the crimes
5. What did Combs and his associates allegedly use to coerce victims into participation?
Option: Drugs, financial leverage, and videos
Option: Threats of violence
Option: Public shaming
Option: Legal documentation



6. What role did Graw Leary highlight regarding individuals facilitating illegal activities?

Option: Knowledgable but unreported

Option: Acting independently

Option: Uninformed

Option: Innocent bystanders

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Sean "Diddy" Combs 2. Racketeering 3. Their own legal interests 4. Facing charges alongside the defendant 5. Drugs, financial leverage, and videos 6. Knowledgable but unreported

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. Which term describes behavior involving deception or misleading?

Option: Perpetuated

Option: Apology

Option: Deceitful

Option: Indicted

2. What does the term "eligibility" represent when reversed?

Option: Inefficiencies

Option: Ineligibility

Option: Coercion

Option: Dramatic

3. What term is used to describe something being unveiled or revealed?

Option: Exposed

Option: Complicit

Option: Racketeering

Option: Lawsuit

4. Which term refers to a heated argument or dispute?

Option: Exposing

Option: Derivative

Option: Altercation

Option: Implications

5. What term means being officially mentioned or recognized for a wrongdoing?



- Option: Cited
- Option: Implication
- Option: Frustration
- Option: Complicit

6. What legal action is taken in court against another party?

- Option: Derivative
- Option: Lawsuit
- Option: Apology
- Option: Uncertain

7. What term refers to the practice of persuading someone to do something through force or threats?

- Option: Speculating
- Option: Elucidated
- Option: Coercion
- Option: Exposed

8. Which term describes an attitude of expressing regret or remorse?

- Option: Infringes
- Option: Apologetic
- Option: Alleging
- Option: Elucidated

9. What term means of considerable importance size or worth?

- Option: Substantial
- Option: Infringes
- Option: Deceitful
- Option: Alarming

10. Which term represents the feeling of being upset or annoyed due to being unable to achieve something?

- Option: Alarming
- Option: Frustration
- Option: Perpetuated
- Option: Implications

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. His behavior became more _____ as the situation escalated.

12. The hike up the mountain was extremely _____ and tested our physical abilities.



13. The suspect refused to comment on the potential _____ of his actions.
14. The journalists were _____ about the possible outcomes of the political scandal.
15. The authorities are investigating the _____ that occurred at the factory last night.
16. The organized crime group was involved in illegal _____ activities.
17. She was accused of being _____ in the embezzlement scheme.
18. The new product was a _____ of the original design with minor modifications.
19. She had difficulty _____ her emotions after the traumatic experience.
20. The professor _____ the complex theory in a way that was easy to understand.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. Despite evidence proving his innocence the false rumors were by the media.
22. The corrupt officials were on charges of fraud and conspiracy.
23. The strict criteria must be met to determine the of candidates for the scholarship.
24. His sincere was accepted by the offended party and peace was restored.
25. The new policy on the rights of citizens leading to protests.
26. The security cameras captured several suspicious in the parking lot last week.
27. His future career path remained after he lost his job unexpectedly.
28. The artist's new painting was a brilliant of classical techniques.
29. The lawyer was that his client was framed for the crime.
30. The defense attorney refuted the of financial misconduct against his client.

Answer

- Multiple Choice:** 1. Deceitful 2. Ineligibility 3. Exposed 4. Altercation 5. Cited 6. Lawsuit 7. Coercion
8. Apologetic



9. Substantial 10. Frustration

Gap-Fill: 11. alarming 12. strenuous 13. implication 14. speculating 15. incident 16. racketeering 17. complicit 18. derivative 19. expressing 20. elucidated

Matching sentence: 1. perpetuated 2. indicted 3. eligibility 4. apology 5. infringes 6. incidents 7. uncertain 8. derivative 9. alleging 10. allegation

CATEGORY

1. Entertainment - LEVEL4

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